

Application Serial No. 09/684,383  
Amendment dated 29 July 2003  
Reply to Office Action mailed 29 May 2003

*AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS*

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

*Listing of Claims*

Claims 1-23 (canceled).

Claim 24 (currently amended). An isolated protein of the TGF- $\beta$  family which has mitogenic and/or differentiation-inductive activity and is coded by a DNA molecule selected from the group consisting of

(a) a DNA molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence shown in the SEQ ID No:1, or the following fragments: nucleotides 128-1183 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 836-1183 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 128-835 of SEQ ID NO:1, and nucleotides 866-1183 of SEQ ID NO:1;

(b) a DNA molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence shown in the SEQ ID No:3, or the following fragments: nucleotides 131-1186 of SEQ ID NO:3, nucleotides 839-1186 of SEQ ID NO:3, nucleotides 131-838 of SEQ ID NO:3, and nucleotides 869-1186 of SEQ ID NO:3;

(c) a DNA molecule encoding the amino acid sequence encoded by (a) or (b); and

(d) a DNA molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes with one of the DNA molecules from (a) and (b) under stringent hybridization conditions in 6x SSC at 62-66° C followed by one hour wash with 0.6x SSC and 0.1% SDS at 62-66° C and which encodes a protein comprising an amino acid sequence containing seven conserved cysteine residues, said seven conserved cysteines corresponding to cysteine residues at positions 247, 276, 280, 316, 317, 349 and 351 in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 25 (currently amended). The protein according to claim 24, wherein said protein has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2; SEQ ID NO:4; a part

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of SEQ ID NO:2 corresponding to ~~the~~ a mature protein, wherein said mature protein which starts with one of amino acids 217-240 and ends with amino acid 352 of SEQ ID NO:2; and a part of SEQ ID NO:4 corresponding to ~~the~~ a mature protein, wherein said mature protein which starts with one of amino acids 217-240 and ends with amino acid 352 of SEQ ID NO:4; ~~and sequences containing conservative substitutions of the amino acids shown in SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4 or the said parts thereof.~~

Claim 26 (previously presented). A heterodimeric protein comprising a monomer of the protein of claim 24 and a monomer of another protein from the TGF- $\beta$  family.

Claim 27 (currently amended). A pharmaceutical composition comprising the protein of claim 24 and ~~pharmaceutical~~ pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or auxiliary substances, diluents or fillers.

Claim 28 (previously presented). A pharmaceutical composition comprising the protein of claim 26 and pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or auxiliary substances, diluents or fillers.

Claim 29 (currently amended). The protein according to claim 24, wherein said protein has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, the part of SEQ ID NO:2 corresponding to the mature protein which ~~includes~~ comprises at least the region of the seven cysteine residues, said region comprising amino acid residues 247-351 of SEQ ID NO:2; and the part of SEQ ID NO:4 corresponding to the a mature protein which ~~includes~~ comprises at least the region of the seven cysteine residues, said region comprising amino acid residues 247-351 of SEQ ID NO:4 ~~and sequences containing conservative substitutions of the amino acids shown in SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4 or the mature parts thereof.~~

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Claim 30 (currently amended). The heterodimeric protein of claim 26, wherein the other member of the TGF- $\beta$  family is activin/inhibin or a ~~BMP~~ bone morphogenetic protein.

Claim 31 (previously presented). A homodimeric protein comprising two monomers of the protein of claim 24.

Claim 32 (previously presented). A monomeric protein comprising the protein of claim 24.

Claim 33 (previously presented). A pharmaceutical composition comprising the protein of claim 31 and pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or auxiliary substances, diluents or fillers.

Claim 34 (previously presented). A pharmaceutical composition comprising the protein of claim 32 and pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or auxiliary substances, diluents or fillers.